U-58G

Foreign Affairs
Cr. & Sp. Branch

U 586
11-10-44

October 7, 1944.

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KNOX, John Frederick, British subject - attempted suicide and attempted murder.

Preliminary investigations conducted by the undersigned ascertained the following:

John Frederick Knox, Eurasian, British subject, married, age 36, formerly employed by the Shanghai Gas C., residing with his wife, of Chinese origin, and two sons, John, 13 years old, and Kenneth, 9 years old, at 656 Yu Ya Ching Rd., was exempted from internment on account of complete blindness. He lost the sight of his eyes about 6 years ago when he was a assaulted by a Chinese employee of the Gas Co. by throwing acid into his face, whilst he (Mr.Knox) was on the company's service. On account of this Mr.Knox was made pensioner of the Gas Co., and was allowed by the Japanese authorities to reside in the company's quarters at the above address.

During the last few days Mr.Knox is stated to be in very depressed state of conditions, and members of the family were living in the fear for his mental stability.

About 2 a.m., on 6.10.44, Mr.Knox woke up his family, and after prolonged arguments persueded them to commit suicide by cutting veins on their hands. Having taken possession of a razor blade he inflicted cuts on the left wrists of his wife and both sons, all of whom though protesting against it offered very week resistance. After that Mr. Knox cut the veins on both his wrists, continuing to repeat that he must end his life.

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However, injuries ~~injuries~~ inflicted did not turn out to be serious enough to threaten the life in either case, and Mr.Knox and his family, probably realizing what has been done, were apparently trying to hide the fact.

On the same morning (6.10.44) about at II o'clock Mr.Knox, accompanied by his ealder son, John, visited the

Swiss Consulate General regarding relief money, and returned home without informing any one of the occurance. Neither of the family went to see any doctor.

At about 2 p.m., on 6.10.44, a missionary, brother John, Irish (other particulars unknown at present) came to see Mr.Knox at his home and on discovering the situation immediately informed the Swiss Consulate General. Mr.Stutz, in charge of British Section of the Swiss Consulate General arrived, after which brother John accompanied the two boys to the General Hospital where they were attended to by Dr.Smolnikoff and Dr.Andreeff.

After having some arguments with Mr.Knox, who would not like to go to the hospital, Mr.Stutz went to the telephone leaving Mr.Knox alone. The latter took this opporunity and jumped through the window from the forth floor falling on the roof of anadjoining building. He was taken an an ambulance to the General Hospital where he was attended to by Dr.Danziger, and was found suffering from fracture of left leg and cuts on both wrists. Dr.Danziger opined that, though there were no deffinite indications, yet it was most probably that attempt on his life and lifes of his family was committed by Mr.Knox in a state of "Temporary insanity".

Mrs.Knox seems to have received the slightest injuries of all. She visited General Hospital only on next day (7.10.44) and was attended to by Dr.Smolnikoff, after which she went home.

Mr.Knox was visited by the undersigned in the hospital at 9.30 a.m., 7.10.44, and stated that he would not make any statement to the Police before he consults with the Swiss Consulate's officials.

When asked by the undersigned regarding reasons for his attempt on his life and lifes of his family, Mr.Knox stated that he was disappointed and disgusted with the life, and wanted his family to die with him to safe them from further sufferings. He also stated that many of his old

friends were looking upon him with disdain, suspecting him of being secretly connected with the Japanese Authorities. This suspicion, he stated was based on the fact that he was exempted from internment and was living in the Gas company's quarters. This suspicion, he said, was intolerable for him and he desided to end his life. Besides, he pointed out, being a blind man he did not expect that he might ever enjoy the life.

P. Mitarevsky
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D.S.I.